

LCWPU June 11, 2025 Meeting Notes

Lake Chelan Watershed Planning Unit Meeting June 11, 2025, 1-3 PM, at the Chelan Chamber of Commerce.

Draft agenda:

1. **Welcome and introductions** 5 minutes
 - a. **In attendance: Rod Anderson LCRD, Mike Kaputa CCNRD, Brian Patterson Chelan Conservancy, Dan Haller Aspect, Richard Uihorn All things lake Chelan, John Olson citizen, Elle Robinson CCNRD, Phil Long LCRI, Joe Heinlen Lake Chelan Adventures, Stephen Lesky CCNRD, Anna Galipeau LCRI, Bret Gardner rockwell water systems, Shon Smith BOCC, Joe Benjamin USGS, Clay Patmont Anchor QEA/LCRI, Kelsey Mach Aspect, Gretchen Cascadian consulting group, Wade Ferris City of Chelan, Adrienne Ramousset CCNRD Consultant, Mallory Hirshel WDFW, Adam Pfleeger CCNWB, Andrea Reyes DOE, Scott Hopkins CCPUD, Brad Hawking BOCC, Doug England citizen, Nic Scoot KOZI, Meaghan Connell CCPUD, Alene underwood CCPUD, Jerry Isenhardt, Erin Mccardle Chelan Mayor, Chris Kosick DOE, Sarah Peck CCPUD, Ashley Rawhouser NPS**
 - b. **Elle covered the agenda, highlighting Dan Haller update on water rights/availability and introduced Joe with USGS to start with the bulltrout study update.**
2. **Bull trout reintroduction feasibility study (Joe Benjamin, USGS)** 15 minutes
 - a. **Joe provided the group with a summary of the Decision Support model that was developed to assess reintroduction of bull trout to Lake Chelan. Joe described all the parameters that went into developing the model. Joe discussed the results of population modeling efforts of various number adults added to each of the 12 identified streams. Joe concluded with the next steps would be to make a decision of whether or not to reintroduce bulltrout to the lake or if there are additional assessments that are needed to acquire more information on deciding to reintroduce or not.**
 - **Ashley added that whatever decision is made, there is no impact to existing recreational fish populations in the lake.**
 - **Mike Kaputa asked if there are any current conversations within USFWS or the local team on reintroduction of bulltrout to the lake: Ashley, currently there is not active conversations on reintroduction with in the team, to date focus has been on completing the decision support model. Team is still analyzing results of the decision model and conducting outreach on potentially moving forward with reintroduction efforts.**
3. **Lake Chelan Collaborative/Watershed Plan (Elle Robinson, Chelan County)** 30 minutes
 - a. **Aspect Team introduction**
 - b. **Timeline for LCC and watershed plan development (Kelsey Mach, Aspect)**
 - c. **LCC diversification and outreach to new members**

- Elle provided an update on the BOR Watershed Grant, added that the “Lake Chelan Collaborative” is open for discussion on final group name. Elle introduced Aspect, their team, and the role Aspect will hold moving forward.
 - Kelsey introduced the Lake Chelan Watershed Plan team. Kelsey will be primary PM of the project. Dan Haller, Water rights. Gretchen Muller (Cascadia Consulting Group) will be facilitator of the group. Clay Patmont (Anchor QEA/LCRI) Limnologist. American Forestry Management will lead terrestrial planning. Gretchen, with support from Elle, will assume facilitation role and lead future meetings, with goal of determining what are the goals and desires of the group for the watershed plan. Gretchen will also conduct outreach efforts to aid in identifying and on-boarding new members. This will primarily focus of groups not already attending LCWPU meetings.
 - Elle will lead effort to identify and on-board new organizations/groups to participate in Watershed plan development efforts. Group had some discussion on potential groups to seek out for participation on planning unit. Adrienne added the group would want to include recreational groups, fishing guides, boat rental business, park and rec departments. The goal is to have these groups attend the next quarterly meeting and start participating.
4. Roundtable Updates 10 minutes
- a. Stephen gave an update on Voluntary Watercraft Inspection program.
 - b. Mike K. gave update that CC and CCPUD are working on a community Plan for Stehekin, may want to consider including some stehekin topics in on watershed plan.
 - c. Richard Ulhorn noted there is a new district ranger for the USFS.
5. Water rights background and discussion (Dan Haller, Aspect Consulting) 50 minutes
- a. Dan Haller, Aspect, gave a detailed history of water rights development, allocation quantities in Chelan watershed, and how the water rights are being reviewed and permitted currently in the Lake Chelan watershed
 - b. Doug England asked “many farmers operate under use it or lose it system, does that apply to other systems?” Dan responded “yes commercial, agricultural, and industry are susceptible to use it or lose it. While, Municipal is largely protected from use it or lose but there are some cases where it applies.
 - c. Commissioner Brad Hawkins asked if the challenge with Lake Chelan water availability is a result of the agreement that the PUD entered into with DOE. Dan responded in every reservoir situation this case exists. Historically this agreement makes sense, logistically with facing water scarcity there is some cause for concern.
 - d. Commissioner Hawkins added, looking 20-30 years down the road there is some cause for concern, the 10-year outlook is good because of Chelan County’s actions to acquire water preemptively, PUD agreement could be root cause of the water availability issue. Mike Kaputa added, this problem only

becomes more compounded down the road. 10 years feels ok, but the county really wants to have water availability in perpetuity for development purposes.

- e. Doug England asked what water about water taken below the dam for the powerhouse and hatchery. Dan responded that anything taken out below the dam is not counted against the reserve, it is considered Columbia River water.
 - f.
6. EPA/Ecology Toxics Project Update (Clay Patmont, Anchor QEA; Phil Long) 5 minutes
- a. The county has entered into the inter-agency agreement with DOE, agreement was back dated to Feb. first part of the project is to sample the lake and tributaries identify source of DDT in basin. Clay stated there are two working hypotheses for the DDT concentration in the lake. Hypothesis: 1. (Most likely) Orchard soils with high inventory of DDT are still supplying DDT to the lake. 2. The lake sediments have high concentration of DDT that is working its way up the food chain.
 - b. First set of water samples have been collected and sent off for analysis. This work will continue for the next year. Anticipated to have better idea of DDT source by spring/summer 2026.
7. Andrea Reyes: Coordinated cost reimbursement update
- a. Currently processing batch 4, 7 surface water 2 ground water; 6 sw water application in 45 day review planned to award in mid July. 3 applications in various review stages
 - b. Batch 5; delay in processing due to statewide contracting delays. DOE in process of RFQQ process (Request for qualifications and quotation), recruit new contractors to process applications. DOE staffing shortages likely will lengthen process.
 - c. DOE experiencing department wide staffing shortage, expected to create delays in DOE operations.
 - d. Cannot share any timeline information surrounding Batch 5/6 processing due to the current RFQQ process.
 - e. Recommend that applicants in batch 5 and 6 review and update applications. Submit assignment of application if property is under new ownership.
 - f. Dan Haller noted that when this started there was nearly 6000 acre-feet available, there have been a number of small permits issued, but, in batches 5 and 6 there are some rather large requests.
 - g. Mike Kaputa; the county will want to have more discussions with DOE, CCPUD, and other agencies on long-term water planning around Lake Chelan water availability. Chelan County is in difficult spot with having to wait 1-2 years to find out about permit applications, when Chelan County could be actively acquiring water for long-term planning purposes.
 - h. Rich Uhlhorn noted there is about 5000 acre-feet left, what does LCRD, Chelan County, and the PUD currently have in water reserves? Mike Kaputa added the county is currently permitting against the reserve and has purchased water from bear mountain, likely set for 10 years' worth of growth. Rod Anderson

(LCRD) add on the domestic side, LCRD has large water rights for development. LCRD has an application in for ag water rights.

- 8. LCRI Update (Phil Long, LCRI) 5 minutes**
 - a. Restore the shore**
 - **Had a large participant turn out as well as large trash collection. All trash logged in the TrashBlitz app. 15672 items. Fragments (fragmented plastic, metal, glass) was largest category.**
 - **Brian asked if the trash categorization will happen next year as well. Anna said they plan on conducting the same categorization with restore the shore next spring.**
 - b. Phil gave a quick update on perchlorate levels in Lake Chelan pre- and post-fireworks event. Overall Chelan and Manson samples were around the mean levels. However, immediately following events levels were above drinking water standards. 1 week post levels were below drinking water standards.**
- 9. Adjourn 3pm**

Next meeting: September 10, 1-3pm